

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04977 051519Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 051450Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2597

S E C R E T JIDDA 4977

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, XF, US

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST PEACE

REF: STATE 169134

1. ON 4 JULY JUST PRIOR TO SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH SAUD TO DISCUSS FLOGGING CASES 'JIDDA 4963), I WAS NOTIFIED BY EMBASSY JIDDA OF RECEIPT OF CAIRO 16319. ACCORDINGLY, I PROCEEDED TO COMPLY WITH REMAINING INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN STATE 167915.

2. I OPENED THAT SUBJECT WITH SAUD BY TELLING HIM THAT USG HAD WANTED SAG TO KNOW OF LONDON TALKS PRIOR TO ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND I HAD JUST RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT EGYPTIANS HAD AGREED TO THE MEETING.

3. SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY I TOLD SAUD THAT WE DID NOT GET THE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO HIM IN ADVANCE FOR SEVERAL REASONS, INCLUDING MY GOING TO DHAHRAN THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON AND THE UNANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SADAT-MONDALE MEETING OF EGYPT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION TO GO TO LONDON.

4. SAUD SEEMED THEN TO DELIGHT IN TELLING ME THAT THE  
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LONDON MEETING WAS STILL NOT FIRM BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS HAD STATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE A DECISION TO COME UNTIL THEY HAD CONSIDERED THE EGYPTIAN PEACE PLAN.

5. POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF ISRAELI RELUCTANCE, SAUD WAS MUCH MORE FAVORABLY INCLINED ON THIS OCCASION TOWARD LONDON PEACE TALKS THAN PREVIOUSLY (DHAHRAN 858). HE COMMENTED

THAT, IF THE ISRAELIS DID IN FACT FAIL TO AUTHORIZE DAYAN TO COME AFTER RECEIPT OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL, IT WOULD FURTHER PROVE THEIR STUBBORNNESS.

6. WHILE HE STILL EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ANY REAL PROGRESS COULD BE MADE, HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE MEETING MIGHT WELL BRING INTO SHARPER FOCUS THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE, WHICH WE SENSE TO BE THE MAJOR POINT YOU WANTED TO EMPHASIZE TO SAG BY INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL.

7. WE RELATED TO SAUD THAT SECRETARY VANCE WOULD BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH SAG IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE TALKS. WE SAID THAT POSSIBLY DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME, THE SECRETARY MAY PERSONALLY VISIT WITH SAG LEADERSHIP OR SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO BRIEF FULLY SAUDIS ON DEVELOPMENTS AT LONDON. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ASKED IF CP FAHD WOULD STILL BE IN EUROPE AS IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR THE SECRETARY TO SEE HIM THERE. (COMMENT: WE ARE STILL TRYING TO GET SOME DEFINITE IDEA ON WHEN FAHD PLANS TO RETURN.)

8. SAUD SEEMED PLEASED AND SAID THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY FAHD WOULD BE IN THE KINGDOM AND WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THE SECRETARY OR A REPRESENTATIVE AFTER THE TALKS WERE CONCLUDED, IF IN FACT THEY WERE HELD AT ALL.

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9. IN VIEW OF SAUD'S WARMER ATTITUDE, WE QUESTION ADVISIBILITY OF GOING BACK A THIRD TIME, ESPECIALLY SINCE MAJOR POINTS OF REFTEL HAVE BEEN COVERED ABOUT AS WELL AS WE THINK THEY CAN BE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IF ON THE OTHER HAND IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR US TO HAVE DETAILS OF SADAT'S NEW PLANS TO SHARE WITH SAUD BEFORE SAME ARE PUBLISHED IN PRESS, IT WOULD GIVE US A GOOD BASIS FOR ANOTHER VISIT WITH PERHAPS SOME WORTHWHILE RESULTS.  
WEST

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION REPLACED WITH NODIS CAPTION PER MS ROBINSON, S/S-O.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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